

II. REMARKS:

A. The Final Office Action

In the final Office Action, claims 28-29 and 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103, but claims 8, 10, 12, 14, 21-23, 25, 31-32, 34, 35, 38 and 39 are allowed.

It is noted that claim 38 is both allowed and rejected. It is also noted that the July 28, 2003 Response added new claim 40, which depends from allowed claim 8, and therefore should have been regarded as allowed also. It will be assumed that where the Examiner noted claims "37-39" in item "4" of the "Office Action Summary", claims "37-40" were intended, and where the Examiner noted claims "38 and 39" in item "5" of the Summary, claims "39-40" were intended. If this assumption is incorrect, the undersigned would appreciate a clarification.

In this Response, ALL REJECTED CLAIMS ARE CANCELED, NO FURTHER AMENDMENTS ARE MADE TO THE PENDING CLAIMS, and Remarks are provided.

B. Ground for Entry of this Response After Final Rejection

Applicant requests entry of this Response after final because all rejected claims are canceled as approved by Rule 1.116.

C. Renewed Request for Acknowledgement of IDS's Filed

Applicant filed Information Disclosure Statements ("IDS's") on: (1) August 2, 2001; (2) January 28, 2002 with an April 14, 2003 correction thereto; (3) December 8, 2003, with corrections thereto on December 12, 2003 and December 19, 2003; and (4) on December 18, 2003 with the December 19, 2003 correction, all prior to the issuance of the final Action. Copies of these papers, additional copies of the cited references, and the date-stamped post cards/successful fax transmission confirmations are attached as Exhibits 1-4, respectively.

It is respectfully requested that each PTO 1449 be initialed and returned to Applicant.

Finally, it is noted that the British Examination Report filed with the December 18, 2003 IDS (Exh. 4) was identified as being dated December 27, 2003, but the actual date of the Report is August 27, 2003. The Examiner is requested to correct the record in this regard.

D. Additional IDS

Attached hereto is another IDS citing Mabuchi, U.S. Patent No. 3,977,758. It is respectfully requested that this IDS also be considered and the PTO 1449 be initialed and

returned to Applicant.

III. CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8, 10, 12, 14, 21-23, 25, 31-32, 34-35 and 39-40 are now in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _____

3/15/04

By: _____



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